

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 43, 56, 69 and 77 were objected to for the informalities that “network” should read “a network.”

Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action dated January, 4, 2005, claims 43-44, 46, 48-57, 59 and 61-68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,182,094, issued to Humpleman et al. (hereafter referred to as “*Humpleman et al*”).

A. The Claimed Invention Enables Discovery, Distribution And Playback Of Digital Media Files Across A Home Network.

Amended claim 43 recites:

43. *(Currently Amended)* *A media system comprising:*

a network;

a plurality of media devices, coupled to said network, comprising at least a first media device and a second media device;

said first media device for discovering at least one digital media file on said second media device;

said network for transferring said digital media file from said second media device to said first media device; and

said first media device for receiving said digital media file, for converting said digital media file to audio - video signals suitable for playback, and for playing said audio - video signals at said first media device.

As claimed, the first media device discovers a digital media file on a second media device. The digital media file is transferred, over the network, from the second media device to the first media device. The second media device converts the digital media file to audio - video signals suitable for playback on the first media device. The audio - video signals are then used to play the content at the first media device.

Amended claim 56 sets forth:

56. *A media system comprising:*

a network;

a plurality of media devices, coupled to said network, comprising at least a first media device and a second media device;

said first media device for discovering said second media device as a playback device of audio - video content;

said first media device for storing at least one digital media file;

said network for transferring said digital media file from said first media device to said second media device; and

said second media device for receiving said digital media file, for converting said digital media file to audio - video signals, and for playing said audio - video signals at said second media device.

As claimed in claim 56, a first media device discovers a second media device as a playback device, and a digital media file is transferred from the first media device to a second media device over a network. The second media device converts the digital media file to an audio video signal for playback at the second media device.

As such, the claimed invention (claims 43 and 56) defines a networked media system that permits ubiquitous distribution of digital media files across a network for storage and playback of the digital media files.

B. Humpleman et al. Do Not Disclose Discovery And Distribution of Digital Media Files.

Applicants respectfully contend that *Humpleman et al.* fail to teach or suggest a networked media system that discovers digital media files, distributes the digital media files across a network, and processing the digital media files for playback at the playback device.

Humpleman et al. disclose an example of playing video in the network environment.

An example, referring again to FIG. 13, if a user wished to play a video on the DTV, the service will consist of the playing of a video in the DVCR and the displaying of the respective video on the DTV. After the user selects the PLAY command option on the DVCR, the DVCR, among other tasks, chooses the isochronous stream that the video signal will be broadcast on. This information, as well as other pertinent information regarding the signal to be broadcast and the particular DVCR hardware setup for broadcasting, i.e., the data specification of the DVCR for the PLAY service are subsequently forwarded to the session manager.

The session manager, upon receiving the data specification from the DVCR, forwards the information to the DTV, in order that the DTV may properly initialize its hardware to display the video broadcast signal broadcast by the DVCR. Some time thereafter, the session manager deletes the session page from 1012 from the DTV screen, allowing the DTV to display the video broadcast by the DVCR. (Col. 20, lines 13 – 30).

Thus, *Humpleman et al.*, as illustrated in the above example, do not transfer digital media files such that the playback device processing the digital file to generate audio –video signals for subsequent playback at a playback device. Instead, *Humpleman et al.* effectuate the playback from one device, the DVCR, to a second device, the DTV, by broadcasting the video signal (See Col. 20, lines 16-19).

As illustrated by the above example, *Humpleman et al.* require a session manager to set-up hardware parameters for broadcasting the video signal between the DVCR and

the DTV (See Col. 20, lines 19 – 27). In contrast, the claimed invention transfers digital media files, and the playback device processes the digital media file as appropriate for its own playback. Thus, setting up hardware parameters between devices is not required. Thus, *Humpleman et al.* do not anticipate claims 43-44, 46, 48-57, 59 and 61-68.

Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 45, 47, 58, 60 and 69 - 77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Humpleman et al.*

Amended claim 69 sets forth:

69. *A media system comprising:*

a network;

a plurality of consumer electronic devices coupled to said network;

storage device coupled said network for storing a plurality of digital media files;

first set-top box, coupled to a first consumer electronic device, for discovering at least one digital media file on said storage device;

said network for transferring said digital media file from said storage device to said first set-top box;

said first set-top box for receiving said digital media file, for converting said digital media file to signals suitable for playback on said first consumer

electronic device; and

said first consumer electronic device for playing said signals.

As recited in claim 69, a set-top box, coupled to a consumer electronic device, discovers a digital media file on a storage device. The digital media file is transferred from the storage device to the set-top box over a network. The set-top box, upon receiving the digital media file, converts the digital media file to signals suitable for playback on the consumer electronic device. The digital media file is subsequently played on the consumer electronic device.

Amended claim 77 recites:

77. *A media system comprising:*

a network;

a plurality of consumer electronic devices coupled to said network;

storage device coupled said network for storing a plurality of digital media files;

first set-top box coupled to a first consumer electronic device;

*said first set-top box for discovering at least one consumer electronic device as a
playback device for at least one digital media file;*

*said network for transferring said digital media file from said storage device to
said first set-top box;*

said first set-top box for receiving said digital media file, for converting said

digital media file to signals suitable for playback on said first consumer electronic device; and

said first consumer electronic device for playing said signals.

Amended claim 77 sets forth a plurality of consumer electronic devices enables to playback digital media files through use of at least one set-top box. The set-top box discovers a consumer electronic device as a playback device. A digital media file is transferred from a storage device to the set-top box. The set-top box processes the digital media files for playback on the consumer electronic device.

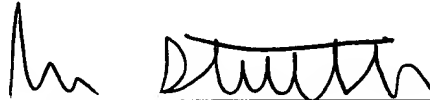
As claimed, a set-top box enables discovery, distribution and playback of digital media files with conventional consumer electronic devices. As such, *Humpleman et al.* do not disclose a system that permits discovery, distribution and playback of digital media files using set-top boxes for storage and playback of digital media files on conventional consumer electronic devices. Therefore, claims 69 – 77 are patentable over *Humpleman et al.*

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Stattler", is written over a horizontal line.

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